his opening Address. The inelasticity of these rules has been brought to the notice of the Government by the Chief Engineer and the question of amending the rules is now under their consideration.

The question of the Government taking the Vembannur ryots' road will be referred to the Chief Engineer.

55. Restoration of irrigation tanks in the Vilavankod taluk.

Mr. R. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhittura) brought to the notice of Government that there were 541 tanks in the Vilavankod taluk irrigating 8,491 acres of paddy lands and paying a tax of Rs. 49, 291 and odd. The Irrigation Regulation, III of 1072, classified all irrigation works into major, minor and petty. Under that classification, there were no major tanks in the taluk. There were about 100 minor tanks, the rest being petty irrigation tanks.

He then began to explain the object of Regulation III of 1072 and said that, though originally the responsibility of constructing, repairing and maintaining petty irrigation tanks devolved entirely on the ryots, it underwent a change with the result that Section 11 A was added to the Regulation, giving power to the Division Peishkar or any other officer duly authorised in that behalf to order the execution of a work at the cost of Government in the event of any accident being apprehended or happening to any petty or minor irrigation work.

So far as the Vilavankod taluk was concerned, the question of repairs was in his opinion vital. The question of maintenance would only be coming up later on. A G. O. had been issued imposing certain conditions on the ryots before the Government took up the responsibility of restoring such tanks and 4 tanks had been repaired under the provisions of that G. O. Though a special irrigation officer had been sanctioned for the investigation and preparation of estimates, more remained to be done and the Member suggested that steps be taken for providing Rs. 50,000 in the budget every year, since otherwise it might take 20 years before the people came to reap the benefit of the new scheme.

The Member then gave a list of the tanks which stood in urgent need of repair showing their extent, the area they would irrigate and the cost of repairing them and stated that, even if a sum of Rs. 50,000 was allotted every year, it would take 14 years to restore all the minor and petty irrigation tanks in the taluk.

His next request was that the principle enunciated by Government in regard to minor irrigation tanks should be followed in the case of petty irrigation tanks also, as otherwise the chance of the restoration of the latter classes of tanks would be far remote. The system of land tenures and the Marumakkathayam law of inheritance prevailing among the bulk of the people in the taluk contributed a great deal to the deplorable condition of those petty irrigation tanks, as the tenant was always in dread of deprivation of his land at the caprice of the Jenmi, and as the Karanavan by reason of his position did not care to spend any money on the improvement of the land. In the light of those circumstances, the Member requested that petty irrigation works might also be treated like minor ones.

President's reply.—A provision of Rs. 10,000 has been made in the budget for the current year's budget of the restoration of the tanks referred to. As you yourself have stated, a special irrigation officer for the investigation and preparation of estimates for the restoration of minor irrigation works has been sanctioned.

As regards the execution of works, two estimates have been sanctioned for the improvement of Karuppukulam and Nallurkulam, for Rs. 2,730 and Rs. 4,000 respectively, and the works are proceeding.

Some other tanks are also being taken up this year. The tank restoration work in the taluk will receive the needed attention at the hands of the Government.

56. Agricultural needs of the Neyyattinkara Taluk.

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) stated at the outset that he was glad that some of the subjects covered by his representation had already begun to engage the attention of the Government. Nevertheless

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he thought of pressing upon the attention of the Government the urgency and importance of certain matters relating to his taluk.

Speaking about the improvement and restoration of minor irrigation works, the Member stated that the people were really thankful to the Government for having allowed, during 1099, a larger sum than usual for such works, and for the appointment of a special staff for the purpose. He stated, however, that the progress was tardy and several applications from the ryots for the restoration of irrigation tanks were pending disposal in the P. W. D., where the preparation of preliminary estimates and the starting of works took an unduly long time, with the likelihood of a considerable portion of the allotment lapsing at the end of the year. He expressed the hope that prompt measures would be adopted by the Chief Engineer to bring about a speedy completion of the restoration works in the taluk, as the material prosperity of a very large population depended upon it.

The Member next stated that there was a proposal to investigate the possibilities of the Aruvikkara river-water for irrigation purposes, and that, though the Government had promised to examine the question, they were not aware what steps were being taken in that direction. He also emphasised the necessity of promoting irrigational facilities in an essentially agricultural country like Travancore and said that any amount of money that might be spent on that account would only serve to add to the earning capacity of the people.

As regards the development of means of communication in the taluk the Member urged :—

(*a*) the construction of a bridge at Puvar ;

(*b*) the extension of the Utiyankulangara-Kulattur Chavadi road to join the Puvar-Sankurutti road ;

(*c*) the repairs to the bridge on the Neyyattinkara-Puvar road ; and

(*d*) the speedy construction of bridges and culverts in the Amaravila-Ottassekharamangalam road.

In re. the bridge at Puvar, the Member said that, at several previous sessions of the Assembly, the necessity for that had been urged and that the difficulties experienced for want of a bridge there were great. He also stated that, though in answer to a question on the subject in the Legislative Council the Government had stated that they were investigating the matter and that a junghar would be provided in the meantime, no junghar had been provided so far, and he hoped that it would not be long for the department to complete the investigation referred to.

As for the extension of the Kulattur-Chavadi road, the Member said that the matter had been brought to the notice of the Government on several occasions and that the line had been surveyed long ago. As the length of the road might not exceed two miles, he thought that the cost would not be heavy, and considering the great importance of the work, he hoped that it might be started without further delay.

As regards the bridge on the Neyyattinkara-Puvar road, the Member stated that it was in a ricketty condition and that he would invite the prompt attention of the Chief Engineer to the necessity of putting it in order.

Next, coming to the bridges on the Amaravila-Ottasekharamangalam road, the Member thanked the Government for having taken up the construction of the first bridge on that road. That work, however, was not making progress, and he hoped that, with better attention, it might be possible to complete all the works along the road in the immediate future.

In conclusion, the Member also brought to the notice of Government the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the Balaramapuram-Puvar road, along which there was considerable traffic. He thought that the remetalling of the road was urgently required.

President's reply.—As you yourself remarked, there is a provision this year (more than the usual provision) of Rs. 24,000 for the restoration of irrigation works in the Trivandrum and Neyyattinkara taluks. The estimates for the following tanks, the

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Chief Engineer says, have already been sanctioned by the Government and they are being worked out, *viz.*, Puliyurkulam, Airurkulam and Nedumkulam.

Works are in progress in the Kottukal channel, Marutur channel, Vazhankal *kulam*, etc.

Estimates are being prepared for and arrangements are being made to take up the restoration of the following tanks :—Pudukkulam, Viyankulam, Panangattukulam, Oodattalakulam, Karottankulam, etc.

Representations about 19 other tanks have also been received from the ryots. Estimates in regard to these tanks also have been arranged for.

The Chief Engineer says that he will see to the provision of a junghar at Puvar.

The Aruvikkara Irrigation Project requires investigation.

As regards the extension of the Chavadi road to join the Puvar extension, the work is being investigated and the necessary estimate is being prepared.

Regarding the repairs to the bridge in the Neyyattinkara-Puvar road, the Chief Engineer says that he will do the needful.

The works on the Amaravila-Ottassekharamangalam road will be expedited.

Re. the Balaramapuram-Puvar road, an estimate has been received. It will be scrutinised and provision made in the next year's budget.

57. Grievances of agriculturists.

Mr. M. Kochukrishna Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) stated, at the outset, that in view of the fact that immediate replies were being given to the representations of the members and the fact that the subjects he proposed to speak upon had already been brought to the notice of the P. W. D., he would not take up much of the time of the house.

He requested that the restoration of the Karuppattichira and the connected irrigation channels, as also the Korandikkara sluice and the improvement of the Nemam-Uruttampalam trace, already taken up, might be completed without delay. He suggested that all the works necessary to prevent future damage to the *elas* served by the Kottukal channel and the Korandikkara sluice, might also be carried out very early. As a special officer and staff had been appointed in connection with the irrigation works in the taluk, he hoped that all irrigation tanks the restoration of which had been applied for might be taken up for restoration, if they were useful, irrespective of the question of their situation or extent.

As for communications in the taluk, he said that the Uruttampalam-Malayinkil trace, about 4 miles in length, was the shortest cut connecting the Pappanamcode-Kottur road and the Balaramapuram-Kattakkada road. The want of a bridge across a canal on that trace and a sluice in the *ela* close by rendered the road unfit for wheeled traffic, and the difficulties experienced by the public were indescribable on that account. He therefore prayed that the trace might be improved and made cartable. The Member next referred to the Peyad-Vellanad trace and said that, if that trace had not been maintained by the P. W. D., it would have been difficult to prove that it had ever been opened at all. He said that the trace was five miles long, and that for about a mile of the most difficult portion of it the people had cut open a different line, and it would therefore be enough if the remaining portion of the line, about four miles in length, was cut open and rendered fit for traffic. As regards the Tatchottukavu-Antiyurkonam trace, the Member said that the trace lay along the valley of a hill, and that if a portion of it for about a mile and a half which was very steep on one side was widened, it could be made use of by carts without danger. He also referred to the old and dilapidated condition of the foot bridge on the short cut connecting the Pappanamkode-Kottur road and the Kundamankadavu—Malayinkil road and said that on account of floods the wooden planks on one side of the bridge had been lying in a

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